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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/604,059

06/24/2003

Charles N. Perez

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04/25/2007

FREDERICK W. GIBB, III

Gibb & Rahman, LLC

2568-A RIVA ROAD

SUITE 304

ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

EXAMINER

DOAN, NGHIA M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2825

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/25/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Advisory Action
Before the Filing of an Appeal Brief**

Application No.

10/604,059

Applicant(s)

PEREZ ET AL.

Examiner

Nghia M. Doan

Art Unit

2825

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 19 April 2007 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE.

1. ☒ The reply was filed after a final rejection, but prior to or on the same day as filing a Notice of Appeal. To avoid abandonment of this application, applicant must timely file one of the following replies: (1) an amendment, affidavit, or other evidence, which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee) in compliance with 37 CFR 41.31; or (3) a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114. The reply must be filed within one of the following time periods:

- a) ☐ The period for reply expires _____ months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
b) ☒ The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.

Examiner Note: If box 1 is checked, check either box (a) or (b). ONLY CHECK BOX (b) WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

NOTICE OF APPEAL

2. ☐ The Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. A brief in compliance with 37 CFR 41.37 must be filed within two months of the date of filing the Notice of Appeal (37 CFR 41.37(a)), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 41.37(e)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal. Since a Notice of Appeal has been filed, any reply must be filed within the time period set forth in 37 CFR 41.37(a).

AMENDMENTS

3. ☐ The proposed amendment(s) filed after a final rejection, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because
(a) ☐ They raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
(b) ☐ They raise the issue of new matter (see NOTE below);
(c) ☐ They are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
(d) ☐ They present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: _____. (See 37 CFR 1.116 and 41.33(a)).

4. ☐ The amendments are not in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121. See attached Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (PTOL-324).
5. ☐ Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): _____.
6. ☐ Newly proposed or amended claim(s) _____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
7. ☒ For purposes of appeal, the proposed amendment(s): a) ☐ will not be entered, or b) ☒ will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.
The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:
Claim(s) allowed: _____.
Claim(s) objected to: _____.
Claim(s) rejected: 1, 5, 13, 17, 25, 29, 30, 33, 35, 36, 38, 39, 42 and 44.
Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: _____.

AFFIDAVIT OR OTHER EVIDENCE

8. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after a final action, but before or on the date of filing a Notice of Appeal will not be entered because applicant failed to provide a showing of good and sufficient reasons why the affidavit or other evidence is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 1.116(e).
9. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence filed after the date of filing a Notice of Appeal, but prior to the date of filing a brief, will not be entered because the affidavit or other evidence failed to overcome all rejections under appeal and/or appellant fails to provide a showing of a good and sufficient reasons why it is necessary and was not earlier presented. See 37 CFR 41.33(d)(1).
10. ☐ The affidavit or other evidence is entered. An explanation of the status of the claims after entry is below or attached.

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION/OTHER

11. ☒ The request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because:
See Continuation Sheet.
12. ☐ Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s). (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s). _____.
13. ☐ Other: _____.

Continuation of 11. does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: Applicant's arguments filed on 04/19/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. As the following reason below:

Applicant(s) state(s) "Ker does not disclose displaying logic device and the guard ring symbolically and schematically in a single display".

Examiner respectfully disagree as the following:

Applicant emphasis that FIG. 14, of Applicant disclosure, item 140 displays logic devices and a guard ring both symbolically and schematically in a single display. As similarly, Fig. 4(a) and 4(b) disclosed by Ker that simplify displaying the top-level design as symbolically and schematically of guard rings and the instance circuit cell in a single display as the master layout views (see Fig. 4(a) and 4(b) and section 2. guard ring automation, also including figs. 5-6)

Applicant(s) state(s) "nothing within Ker discloses a hierarchical integrated circuit design having a parameterized cell and a guard ring".

Examiner respectfully disagree as the following:

Ker, page 114, section 2.1 Instance and Mosaic, fig. 4(a) is display as single metal layer and fig. 4(b) has multiple metal layers, but forbidden VIA stack. Guard ring are formed by the p+ diffusion in p-substrate connected to VSS and n+ diffusion in n-well connected to VDD. As page 115 and fig. 5(a)-5(d) through fig. 6(a) and fig. 6(b) describe an addition guard ring is added under a specified power line, if the power line VDD and insert diffusion layer is an N+ diffusion with N-well substrate and if the power line VSS and insert diffusion layer is an P+ diffusion with P-well substrate. Moreover, one integrated circuit has at least two (2) basis metal layers or multiple metal layer, such as power (VDD) and ground (VSS) to obtain a hierarchical structure. Hence, Ker discloses a hierarchical integrated circuit design having a parameterized cell and a guard ring.

According to the evidences above, Ker discloses every limitations of the claim invention. Therefore, the claim rejection is sustained..


JACK CHIANG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER